

“The people of Hawaii believe that public officers and employees must exhibit the highest standards of ethical conduct and that these standards come from the personal integrity of each individual in government.”

*— Hawaii State
Constitution
Article XIV*

Hawai‘i State Ethics Commission

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The High Road

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State Ethics Commission Proposes Cooling-Off Period on Lobbying by Former State Officials



The 2020 legislative session is underway and a bill proposed by the State Ethics Commission is seeking to ensure clearer boundaries between high-ranking government officials and lobbyists. [H.B. 2124](#) / [S.B. 2114](#) prohibits certain state officials who leave state office from immediately becoming paid lobbyists. The bill creates a twelve-month cooling-off period on lobbying after an official leaves state employment. During this period, an official would be prohibited from lobbying the Legislature or state agencies for pay. State officials who would be affected by the bill include the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, executive department heads, the President of the University of Hawai‘i, the Trustees and Administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and certain other state officials. Legislators are

already prohibited from lobbying the Legislature for twelve months after leaving state office, but the bill would also prohibit Legislators from lobbying state agencies for twelve months with regard to proposed administrative rules.

The Commission also has proposed two other bills to strengthen and clarify the Ethics Code:

[H.B. 2125](#) / [S.B. 2115](#) amends the financial disclosure law for state officials by requiring filers to report the names of clients they have assisted or represented before state agencies. This bill also requires members of the Hawai‘i Correctional System Oversight Commission to file confidential financial disclosure statements with the Commission.

[H.B. 1673](#) / [S.B. 2100](#) restores the Ethics Code’s protection for Legislators when carrying out their legislative functions and clarifies that the Legislature shall adopt rules regarding the disclosure of any interest or transaction that a Legislator believes may be affected by the Legislator’s official action.

State Ethics Commission to Hold Public Hearing on Proposed Administrative Rules

**March 19, 2020
9:30am
1001 Bishop Street
Suite 960, Honolulu
livestream to Maui,
Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i Island**

The State Ethics Commission will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Commission’s administrative rules (Hawaii Administrative Rules Title 21). The hearing will be held on March 19, 2020, 9:30 a.m., at 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 960, Honolulu, Hawai‘i.

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Hawai'i State Ethics Commission

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NEW! Ethics Online Training Is Here!

State employees on O'ahu, Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i, Maui and Moloka'i have all started logging on to the State Ethics Commission's new online training program. The 30-minute interactive program was launched in January and within the first few weeks, 500 employees statewide completed the program. State agencies with the largest number of employees who have taken the program to date (and have received certificates of completion for doing so) include: (1) the Department of Education; (2) the Department of Health; (3) the Department of Transportation; and (4) the Department of Accounting and General Services. Congratulations to these agencies!



The online program provides basic information that every employee should have about the laws in the State Ethics Code, Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS") Chapter 84. Anyone with internet access can take the program using a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or even a smartphone. After completing the program, employees may obtain a certificate of completion to show that they have taken the online training.

No more having to wait for an ethics class to be scheduled near your workplace or having to drive to an outside location for training. Ethics online training is now available 24/7 to you! We especially encourage neighbor island employees to try the online program.

For more information about the online program and to access the program, visit our website or click [here](#).

2020 Ethics Training Schedule



Looking for a more personal training experience away from your office or workplace? Sign up for one of our in-person ethics training classes in 2020. The classes are taught by the State Ethics Commission's attorneys and, like the online program, they provide a good overview of the laws in the State Ethics Code that apply to all state employees. These classes are about 90 minutes long and they include time for audience questions. Instructors are also available after

class to speak to individuals about ethics issues or concerns. Classes include employees from different state agencies so you will have an opportunity to meet some of your state colleagues outside of your own department.

Ethics classes will be offered in 2020 on O'ahu (Honolulu and Pearl City), Hawai'i Island (Hilo and Kona), Kaua'i (Lihue), and Maui (Kahului). The Maui class will also be video conferenced to state employees on Moloka'i.

For information about training dates and locations, and to learn when online registration for the classes will begin, visit our website or view our 2020 Ethics Training Schedule by clicking [here](#).

“The purpose of this chapter is to . . . establish an ethics commission which will . . . render advisory opinions and enforce the provisions of this law so that public confidence in public servants will be preserved.”

Preamble,
Hawaii Revised
Statutes Chapter 84
(State Ethics Code)

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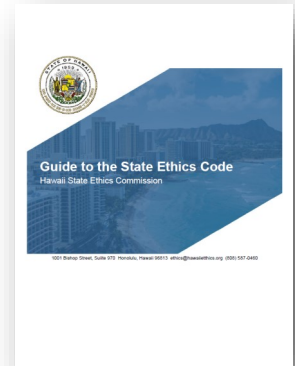
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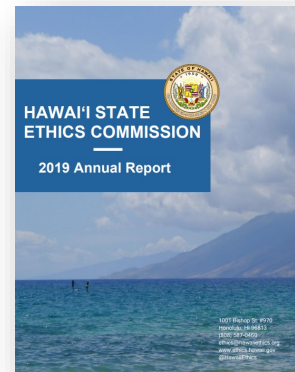
NEW! Guide to the State Ethics Code

Our latest publication, [Guide to the State Ethics Code](#), is a handy new reference to the ethics laws for state employees. This new Guide includes short summaries of all the ethics laws; links to more information about specific topics, such as gifts; and a short interactive quiz for you to test your knowledge of the State Ethics Code. Check out our new [Guide to the State Ethics Code](#)!



NEW! 2019 Annual Report

The State Ethics Commission’s [2019 Annual Report](#) highlights the work of the Commission and its staff in administering the State Ethics Code and the Lobbyists Law. The Annual Report includes summaries of the Commission’s advisory opinions, major enforcement actions and ethics education program in 2019. The Report also highlights the Commission’s work last year administering the financial and gifts disclosure laws, as well as the lobbyist registration and reporting laws. The 2019 Annual Report is available [here](#).



ADMINISTRATIVE RULES *continued from page 1*

The hearing also will be livestreamed to locations on Maui, Kaua‘i and Hawai‘i Island. Interested persons may submit public testimony, orally or in writing, at the public hearing on O‘ahu or at any of the neighbor island locations.

The proposed amendments to the administrative rules address the Commission’s operations and procedures, including its procedures for advisory opinions, investigations and settlements, and contested case hearings. The proposals also clarify certain provisions of the State Ethics Code (including the laws regarding gifts, gifts reporting, fair treatment and conflicts of interests) and the Lobbyists Law (including reporting and registration requirements for lobbyists). To view the proposed administrative rules, which are posted on the Commission’s website, click [here](#).

For more information about how to submit public testimony on O‘ahu or the neighbor islands, click [here](#) to view the Commission’s [Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Administrative Rules](#).